Application No.: 10/776,262 Docket No.: A8319.0033

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 5 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are now pending. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application in light of the amendments and foregoing remarks.

At the outset, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 6 and 10 are in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 10 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 7-8 depend from claim 1 and should now be similarly allowable.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is an independent claim and <u>not</u> a dependent claim. As such, claim 6 is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

Application No.: 10/776,262 Docket No.: A8319.0033

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: March 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorney for Applicants